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2626  
PATENT APPLICATION

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

In re Application of: )  
: Examiner: S. A. Rogers  
MINORU HAYASAKI )  
: Group Art Unit: 2626  
Application No.: 09/449,972 )  
:   
Filed: November 26, 1999 )  
:   
For: IMAGE PROCESSING APPARATUS, )  
AND IMAGE COMMUNICATION :  
APPARATUS FOR PROTECTING )  
IMAGE INFORMATION, AND :  
METHOD FOR CONTROLLING THE )  
SAME : August 31, 2004

Mail Stop Amendment  
Commissioner for Patents  
P.O. Box 1450  
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

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Technology Center 2600

RESPONSE TO ELECTION OF SPECIES REQUIREMENT

Sir:

This paper is filed in response to the Office Action dated August 11, 2004, imposing a restriction requirement in the above-identified case. In the Office Action, the Examiner required election of a single disclosed invention for continued prosecution on the merits in this case.

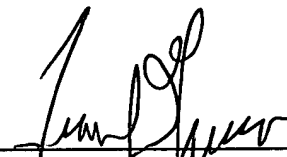
1. Group I (Claims 15-21 and 24-28) drawn to an image processing apparatus and method characterized by receiving image information that includes a code to indicate whether the image information is permitted to be output.
2. Group II (Claims 22-23 and 29-30) drawn to an image processing apparatus and method characterized by converting a formal image data in accordance with a

determined output mode.

Applicant hereby elects, without traverse, Group I, Claims 15-21 and 24-28,  
for continued prosecution on the merits.

Favorable consideration and early passage to issue of the present application  
are respectfully requested.

Applicant's undersigned attorney may be reached in our New York Office by  
telephone at (212)218-2100. All correspondence should continue to be directed to our address  
listed below.



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